

BLUES CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

WYCOMBE players and officials left Carshalton shaking their heads and wondering just how they had been held to a draw which further dents their hopes of taking the Berger Isthmian League title this season.

Without exaggeration Saturday's match at Colston Avenue was one of the most one-sided games I have seen this season. Yet five minutes from the end up popped Carshalton substitute Kevin Wallis to earn his outplayed side an unlikely draw.

Yet Wycombe, who performed 100 per cent better than they had at Sutton the previous week, have only themselves to blame for not taking some gilt-edged chances, especially in the first half.

With Keith Mead replacing Phil Bycroft at the centre of the defence, Jimmy Jacobs returning to mid-field for the holidaying Mick Holfield and Gary Toll in for Terry Scott, Wycombe probably produced their most fluent

By MICHAEL KNOX Carshalton 1, Wycombe 1

performance of the year — until they reached the goal-mouth.

Chance after chance went begging and at the end striker Terry Glynn thought he could have scored six goals — yet he did not get one. He seems to have lost a little confidence, missing chances he would normally have tucked away.

Glynn was unlucky early on when his close range shot struck one of the goalkeeper's legs and trickled towards goal before being cleared off the line. He clearly thought then that it was not to be his day.

Cleared

In another amazing incident both Jacobs and Glynn saw shots cleared off the line. Steve Long had another effort tipped over the bar and it looked as though Wycombe would never score.

But they did thanks to a disastrous error by home goalkeeper Chris Lightfoot. Glynn was fouled five yards outside the penalty area. Howard Kennedy immediately signalled that he wanted a go.

He let fly with a fierce shot that bounced just in front of Lightfoot and went through his hands. Kennedy makes a habit of scoring goals from free-kicks and so he gave Blues a well-deserved lead.

The goal came in the 42nd minute and before half time Wycombe could easily have added two more as Carshalton, involved in an emotional FA Trophy replay victory over Bootle in mid-week, began to sag.

One of these chances fell to Glynn who burst through two defenders to put himself in a one-to-one situation with the goalkeeper. Normally he would have shot straight away. But instead he rounded the goalkeeper and then saw his soft shot cleared off the line by a defender.

With a strong wind behind them, Wanderers knew they would find ball control difficult in the second half. But they continued to dictate the play and Glynn and Toll both went close.

Carshalton's main hopes seemed to depend on mistakes by Gary Lester, who dropped a couple of high balls in the wind. Perhaps he was upset by his first ever booking for the club. A tricky situation demanded he handle the ball outside the area and he received due punishment.

However, the longer the game progressed, the less likely it seemed that Carshalton would score. The visitors marked tightly and worked hard to maintain their lead. Their concentration was faultless.

Substitute

Then six minutes from the end Scott came on as substitute for Glynn, who had pulled a groin muscle early in the game. Whether this move interrupted their concentration we shall never know — but within 60 seconds the home side equalised.

For once tight marking let them down. Coloured Desmond Dennis was able to get past his man and his square pass was struck joyfully into the net from 15 yards by Wallis, who was making his debut after being loaned by Dulwich.

This was a sickening blow for Wycombe who went all out for the winner. It was significant that the home spectators were the ones looking anxiously at their watches before the final whistle blew. **CARSHALTON:** C. Lightfoot; A. Maurice, M. Clark, S. Bangs, P. Pinchen, T. Sims, T. Mason, D. Dennis, B. Greenhalgh, A. Ives (sub: K. Wallis (60 mins), C. Miles. **WYCOMBE:** G. Lester; P. Birdseye, G. Borg, R. Davies, K. Mead, R. Dell, J. Jacobs, H. Kennedy, T. Glynn (sub: T. Scott 84 mins), G. Toll, T. Scott.

Referee: A. Bowers (Oxford). **Half-time 0-1. Scorers:** Carshalton — Wallis (85); Wycombe — Kennedy (42).

Going for first cup

WYCOMBE will be aiming to win their first trophy of the season to fight (Tuesday) when they take on the R.A.F. at Loakes Park for the Battle of Britain Cup.

This was competed for last year for the first time when the R.A.F. won it on penalties after two hours of football had failed to separate the teams. Keith Mead, it was, who missed the vital penalty.

Wanderers will be keen for revenge but they will be without the services of Terry Glynn, resting his groin muscle injury and Mick Holfield, who left for a fortnight skiing holiday last weekend.

Glynn and Paul Birdseye represented a F.A. XI against

the Amateur Football Alliance at Net. Police's Imber Court Ground last Wednesday. Glynn found the scoresheet in the F.A.'s 5-1 victory.

BERGER ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slough	29	17	9	3	46	23	60
Enfield	31	16	8	7	59	35	56
Wycombe	32	16	8	8	56	37	56
Harrow	32	15	8	9	50	34	53
Sutton	30	14	10	6	55	41	62
Dagham	32	13	9	10	61	50	48
Bromley	32	13	8	11	51	50	47
Ley Stone	29	12	8	9	51	42	44
Hayes	31	13	5	13	30	37	44
Dulwich	31	11	10	10	49	44	43
*Barking	36	11	11	14	49	59	42
Staines	32	11	8	13	42	44	41
Carshalton	30	11	4	15	41	57	37
Harlow	29	8	11	10	35	42	35
Tooting	33	10	5	18	34	44	35
Barn Wood	30	9	8	13	38	49	35
Waltham	29	10	4	15	31	45	34
Woking	33	10	4	19	34	55	34
Croydon	28	6	15	7	26	25	33
Ltherhead	33	7	12	14	23	39	33
Hendon	30	9	7	14	39	48	33
Ritchie	26	7	8	11	34	34	29

* 2 points deducted.

Sacked Steve was 'shabbily treated'

I FEEL I have to write to air my feelings and those of many other Wycombe Wanderers supporters about the disgusting way in which Steve Hardwick has been treated by the Wanderers committee.

Okay, he's a tough player and one who gets stuck in and does his job well. He's also a marked player by opponents and referees (on the pitch). But his last encounter (sending off at Cheltenham) surely didn't warrant his being sacked; or the cowardly way in which he was informed by the committee. I'm sure this could have affected the Wycombe players

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in their disappointing result at Sutton and have a bearing on players wanting to join the Wanderers.

Who is next for a cowardly letter? Could it be Mr Borg or even Mike Keen? Or maybe the committee could send one to themselves.

'Good luck, Steve'. At least some of the fans from the Blues think you were shabbily treated.

Michael North,
Candlemas Mead,
Beaconsfield.